

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018399

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH)

SUBJ: DEP SEC VISIT TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

REF: A STATE 8028, B CANBERRA 57, C STATE 8031

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAS ADVISED OF INVITATION BY AUSTRALIAN HICOM LES JOHNSON FOR DEP SEC AND MRS. RUSH AND AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN TO STAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE WHILE IN PORT MORESBY. INVITATIONS ACCEPTED AND AUSTRALIANS HERE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.

2. IN DEVELOPING PROGRAM WITH PNG THROUGH GOA FONOFF, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT, IF POSSIBLE, OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS BE FITTED INTO AFTERNOON OF MARCH 1, LEAVING MORNING MARCH 2 FOR TOUR OF PORT MORESBY AREA. SUGGEST LATTER INCLUDE VISITS TO MUSEUM, HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, UNIVERSITY, MEMORIAL CEMETERY, AND KOKI MARKET. IF IT
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DEEMED IMPORTANT FOR DEP SEC TO HOST LUNCHEON IN RECIPRO-

CATION PNG EVENTS, SUGGEST SMALL LUNCHEON AT APPROPRIATE HOTEL MARCH 2.

3. ALTHOUGH REFTEL (C) NOTES THAT GIFT EXCHANGES ARE TO BE AVOIDED IF POSSIBLE, BELIEVE PORT MORESBY MIGHT BE AN EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE. DEP SEC WILL BE MOST PROMINENT US VISITOR THUS FAR, AND WILL IN A SENSE BE OPENING DIRECT US CONTACT WITH PNG. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES OFFICIAL GIFT

FROM DEP SEC ON BEHALF USG MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE. WE HAVE IN MIND SMALL INTERNATIONAL LAW LIBRARY OR OTHER COLLECTION USEFUL BOOKS ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTER FOR USE BY FLEDGLING PNG FONOFF, OR SIMILAR GIFT OF UTILITY. APPRECIATE YOUR EARLY COMMENT.

4. RE PARA THREE REFTEL (C), FOR REASONS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN ABOVE PARA, WE ARE INCLINED TO SEE UTILITY IN SOME SORT OF JOINT STATEMENT REFLECTING PNG/US DESIRE FOR CLOSE RELATIONS AND COOPERATION IN PACIFIC REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND INSTITUTIONS. AGAIN WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENT, INCLUDING DRAFT SUGGESTIONS FOR TEXT OF SUCH STATEMENT, PRESUMABLY TO BE ISSUED FOLLOWING MEETINGS BETWEEN DEP SEC AND PNG CHIEF MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER. SUGGEST YOU CONSULT WITH DFA ON ADVISABILITY OF ISSUING JOINT STATEMENT.

5. IF TOASTS ARE ANTICIPATED, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INPUT.

6. RE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, EXPECT REQUIREMENT FOR 28 PERSONS IN PORT MORESBY, INCLUDING AIRCREW, BUT EXCLUDING RUSH'S AND GREENS. GIVEN HOTEL SPACE PROBLEMS PORT MORESBY, RECOMMEND YOU BLOCK BOOK SOONEST 28 SINGLES.

7. EA/ANP AND OTHER OFFICES PRESENTLY PREPARING FOLLOWING BRIEFING PAPERS (WITH TALKING POINTS WHERE APPROPRIATE): (A) BACKGROUND PAPER ON PNG; (B) ECONOMIC RELATIONS (INCLUDING AID AND INVESTMENT); (C) PORT MORESBY CONGEN; (D) US POLICY IN PACIFIC ISLANDS; (E) CU PROGRAM FOR PNG. BACKGROUND PAPER (A) WILL INCLUDE INFO ON US CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERESTS IN PNG, PNG INTERNAL PROBLEMS, LIKELY THRUSTS OF PNG FOREIGN POLICY, AND COMMENT ON PNG ROLE IN AREA FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE. DO YOU RECOMMEND ANY OTHER TOPICS OR WISH GIVE EMPHASIS ANY PARTICULAR THEMES OR TALKING POINTS? KISSINGER

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